

### **REMARKS**

Claims 1-19, 21-22 and 24-31 are currently pending in this application.

The Office Action indicated that claims 1-2 and 30-31 are allowed. Applicants thank the Examiner for reconsideration and allowance of these claims.

Claims 3-19, 21-22 and 24-29 have been rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Townsend (United States Patent No. 6,490,476) in view of Dinkler (United States Patent Publication No. 2002/0032927927) and Robinson (United States Patent No. 6,637,453). The Office Action indicated that the prior rejection, namely that based on Townsend and Robinson, was fully considered and the arguments were persuasive and thus the rejection was withdrawn. The Office Action then finds new grounds for rejection by adding Dinkler to the rejection basis. As discussed in further detail below, Dinkler does nothing to cure the deficiencies found in Townsend and Robinson, and consequently Applicants must request reconsideration of this rejection.

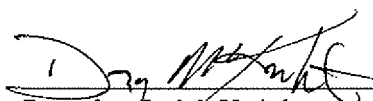
Dinkler is directed to a table for medical imaging – or in other words, a patient support. The elements pointed to in the Office Action, namely the opening (34) and the curved cross-sectional profile described in Paragraph 0037, are directed to the patient support structure itself and not imaging device support structure or housing as claimed in the claims of the present application. None of the elements referenced in the prior response are found in Dinkler. While Dinkler does make mention of drainage, Dinkler does not provide a fluid control surface on the imaging apparatus housing that will direct fluid away from or off of the imaging apparatus housing. In fact, the hole or opening in the patient support structure would likely do nothing but cause more fluids to strike the imaging housing, if combined as suggested in the Office Action. Consequently, not only does the combination not include several of the elements of the claimed invention, but adding Dinkler to the proposed combination would likely teach away from invention as fluid would then pass directly through the patient support and onto the housing – which is clearly an undesirable outcome.

Since the combination of references does not disclose or teach every element of the claimed invention, the combination of references does not render these claims obvious. Reconsideration of this rejection is respectfully requested.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that this application is now in condition for allowance. The Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned if such contact would facilitate the prosecution of this application. Please charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account No. 14-1270.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 4/3/07

  
Douglas B. McKnight  
Reg. No. 50,447  
440-483-2373